

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ **CONFIDENTIAL**  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Yugoslavia  
 SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, livestock

DATE OF  
 INFORMATION 1950

HOW  
 PUBLISHED Monthly periodical

DATE DIST 23 Jun 1951

WHERE  
 PUBLISHED Zagreb

NO. OF PAGES 5

DATE  
 PUBLISHED Nov 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO  
 REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Serbo-Croatian

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
 OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50  
 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION  
 OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-  
 HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Stocárstvo.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN DALMATIA

Engr Ante Marusic

Although agricultural conditions in Dalmatia are unfavorable for cattle breeding, animal husbandry is a basic branch of economy in the karst regions. Sparse and rocky pastures, poorly covered with short grass, are able to provide fodder only for the native breed of sheep and for the Busa breed of cow. The stunted woodland trees provide food for domestic goats.

Animal husbandry does not satisfy the demands of the population qualitatively or quantitatively. There is a constant decrease in the number of animals and deterioration in their quality.

Dalmatia has always been considered an area for the Busa and Oberinthal breeds of cattle. The Oberinthal breed, as a pure strain and crossbred with Busa, has been adopted in areas where feeding and raising conditions were adequate for high productivity. These are mainly Sinj and Knin srezes and some small areas within other srezes which have comparably favorable conditions, where the owners are rich and skilled enough to provide the better breed of cattle with better fodder and shelter. The conditions required for even the Oberinthal breed cannot be found in the entire area of Sinj Srez; in the hilly parts, because of the poor feeding conditions, this breed is far inferior in productivity and weight to the cattle of the same breed in the lowland areas.

Long experience has proven that of all cattle raised, the Oberinthal is the only one which adapts itself to a certain extent to the climatic, economic, and living conditions in Dalmatia.

Efforts are being made to further the breeding of Dubrovnik Ruda sheep in seacoast areas where there are favorable climatic and economic conditions, and to increase their weight and wool output by crossbreeding them, wherever possible, with the Pestorsko-Sjenicki breed in Sinj and Knin srezes.

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ **CONFIDENTIAL**

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISTRIBUTION													
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI															

**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

As far as hog breeding is concerned, the improved German breed is best suited to Dalmatia and is the best type for crossbreeding. This imported breed is favored by the Dalmatians, particularly because of its long body and its productiveness.

The domestic hen is considered a good egg-layer. Experiments are under way to improve its qualities by crossbreeding it with the improved Styrian breed.

Of the three sectors of agriculture (private, state, and cooperative), the private is the largest. As far as improvements and increases in animal husbandry are concerned, however, state and cooperative farms are of greater importance.

#### Cattle

A large number of SRZ (farm work cooperatives) have not made any effort to improve and increase the number of livestock. More ambitious ones, however, with sufficient means to build better stables and to acquire more cattle, have built up larger herds of cattle than can possibly be kept profitably. In a barn for 10-20 cows, belonging to such an SRZ, all possible breeds and crosses of cattle are to be found. There are usually several Siementhal cows (large and small), Pinzgau, Montafon, Oberinthal, Busa, and all possible crosses of these breeds. It is difficult to determine to what breed or crossbreed such an animal actually belongs.

The impression such a herd makes on an agronomist is very poor. Trying to find some justification for keeping such a mixed herd, an agronomist usually inquires about an animal's productivity, health, feeding conditions, etc., hoping to get an encouraging answer. Unfortunately, there is none. Usually, the owners complain that the animals are using too much food and yield little milk, do not graze enough and are always thin, etc.

A farmer who is used to a small cow like the Busa or a Busa crossbred with an Oberinthal, cannot get used to a large cow, and fails to realize that it needs many tens of kilograms of good hay and several kilograms of solid fodder daily, that it requires a good layer of straw to lie on, and an adequate barn. Because of its soft hoofs, such a large cow cannot graze on the rocky Dalmatian pastures, on the poor, short, dry grass characteristic of the karst region. The small-size Busa cows are neglected in such barns, for fodder, which is never abundant, is always fed to the larger cows. Although some large Siementhal cows were brought to the Dalmatian islands, the author does not know whether any of them are left by now. The same breed was brought 60-70 years ago to Bosnia-Herzegovina, where feeding conditions are somewhat better than in Dalmatia.

It would have been much better if the SRZ had started to raise purebred Oberinthal and Oberinthal crossbred with Busa, such as are found in Knin and Sinj srezes. Although it was not possible to acquire enough milk cows all at once, bulls and calves were available. In this way, the precious breed could have been saved from slaughter. By now, such calves would have formed herds of valuable animals (Oberinthal crossbred with Busa), and the state authorities would have paid good money to the SRZ concerned for breeding bulls and cows, which are so badly needed. Since the state authorities have stopped buying young bulls at high prices, private farmers have stopped raising bulls.

On cooperative farms, almost all the calves are slaughtered, for nobody wants to keep the ugly, ill-proportioned animals of mixed breed which consume too much food.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

It is high time to discontinue the above-mentioned breeding practice. SRZ members should be compelled to acquire only Oberinthal or Oberinthal-Busa bulls, to keep and raise good bull and heifer calves from these bulls and Busa or Oberinthal-Busa cows, and to rejuvenate their herds gradually by replacing the old cows of other breeds with the newly acquired Oberinthal-Busa breed.

Those STZ which raise a limited number of cattle should be instructed not to be too enthusiastic about large cows. There is a common feeling in such communities that only the large cow can be profitable.

Not even state farms have established a definite policy with respect to cattle breeding in Dalmatia. Although Dalmatia belongs to the Oberinthal region, some Montafons and other breeds have been kept on state farms. The Montafon breed in this area was discontinued a long time ago, for the Oberinthal breed proved to be better suited to this part of the country. The Montafon is heavier, has soft hoofs, requires better fodder, and is not sufficiently hardy. The color of this breed is not so attractive to Dalmatian farmers as the Oberinthal.

The Montafon breed is available in the vicinity of Zadar. It was introduced by the Italians before World War II to ensure the milk supply of the city of Zadar. Some good Montafons were left, which were transferred to the state farms at Vran and Citluk. The Montafon breed has spread as far as Glavica near Knin, although for many years the only breed throughout the entire Knin area was the Oberinthal.

A number of breeding stations were established on SRZ and state farms, but could not greatly alleviate the situation for the following reasons. The number of good Oberinthal bulls and Oberinthal cross bulls is relatively very small compared with the number of cows to be bred. The bulls are not properly cared for, most of them are too old, and few replacements have been made. The state farms, as the only source of breeding bulls, are not in a position to satisfy the demands of all the breeding stations for replacements. In addition, one third of the state-farm bulls are Montafons.

Although largely represented in cattle breeding, private farms do not contribute much to the improvement and increase of cattle. Accustomed to having the state agricultural authorities supply him with a bull for breeding, the farmer waits for a state-owned bull to be assigned to his area. If a bull is not assigned, the farmer uses for his cows any bull he can find.

#### Sheep

Dalmatian Pramenka sheep are a natural product of the local conditions. Every srez can be said to have its particular breed. There are three centers in Dalmatia (Dubrovnik, Zalarin, and Silba) where successful experiments using the Merino breed to improve local sheep have been carried on for a long time. However, improvement has been made and the new breed has established itself only where living conditions have been changed. Thus, Dubrovnik Ruda sheep have established themselves solely on the Dubrovnik Islands and in the area of the Dubrovnik seacoast, where they are raised in small flocks and live in the houses with the people.

Sometimes it happens that in the same village one farmer is a better agronomist and raises Ruda sheep, while his next-door neighbor has Pramenka sheep which he keeps outdoors, depending solely on the pasture for food. Similar cases are not infrequent on Zlarin Island near Sibenik. On Silb and Pag islands, this particular type of sheep has retained its high quality of wool, but in adjusting to the poor fodder of the islands, it has lost weight and compares in size with the smallest Pramenka sheep.

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

After the liberation, efforts were made to improve the quality of Pramenka sheep by importing rams and even complete herds of Pestorsko-Sjenicka, Macedonian, and Merino sheep. Positive results could be noticed, however, only where the crossbred lambs were given better fodder, a regular supply of water, and improved shelter. Similar good results were obtained at two or three ambitious SRZ which experimented with Pestorsko-Sjenicka sheep and brought up the crossbred lambs with great care.

Some success was noticed at state farms too, although only a few hundred satisfactory lambs were produced. The above activity will be continued further, but final success will depend on improved conditions of shelter, fodder, and a regular supply of water. It is not practicable, however, to think of raising large flocks of several thousand sheep on one farm, for Dalmatia's meager pastures indicate that sheep can be raised successfully only in small flocks of up to 100 sheep, grazing an extensive area, watched by one shepherd. Larger flocks would require very extensive grazing areas and a large number of shepherds, which would considerably raise the expense.

The practice of assigning more sheep to one shepherd and limiting the flock to a small grazing area is detrimental to milk and wool production and undermines the inherited good qualities of these sheep: good wool and large size. Some exceptions to this rule have been noted in the Sinj area, where the pastures are superior. In some other areas, various diseases and pests (piroplasmosis, etc.) destroy all these inherited good qualities.

The private farmers, who at present keep approximately 95 percent of Dalmatian sheep, have made no effort to improve their quality. Some improvement could be achieved by a few individuals in areas with good pastures and sufficient water, if the individuals and the communities had a sincere desire to raise a better breed of sheep. The number of sheep on private and communal farms is decreasing, while the number of sheep on state farms is increasing.

#### Hogs

Hog breeding, like cattle breeding, in Dalmatia is marked by heterogeneous breeds, types, and crossbreeds.

The SRZ and other farms are raising hogs of all breeds, varieties, and crosses. Immediately after the war, hog-breeding farms were assigned hogs imported from the north: Mangalica, Pfeiffer, Turropolje, Black Slavonian, Bagun, and Black Berkshire, all referred to as "Slavonian hogs." There were some remnants also of improved German and Yorkshire hogs, and crosses of the two. In time, all these breeds and crossbreeds became so crossed that now each hog is a separate breed with no indication as to its origin, or whether it is bacon-type, lard-type, or a combination. Because of their high fertility, however, these hogs are profitable, for they grow fast, require little fodder, and are rather fat. They litter 1-3 times per year, each time with 5-7 pigs.

Since the bloodlines have not been kept pure, the negative results of such inbreeding are already evident at certain farms: degeneration, reduced size, small litters, and lowered resistance to disease and adverse climatic conditions. This degeneration has not yet occurred on a large scale because hogs have been constantly imported from Slavonia. Degeneration has also been impeded because many breeds are represented on almost all farms.

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Due to the importing of lard-type hogs, Dalmatian pig-raisers have switched from breeding a combination-type hog to breeding the real lard-type, which ordinarily ranges in the woods and forests and in pastures until fattening. However, since farmers do not have such woods and pastures, they have to feed these hogs from infancy with expensive feed, which is never sufficient. Consequently, hog breeding is declining rather rapidly on large farms and the SRZ, because of the lack of fodder. The same is true of state farms.

Even the private farms have been affected, although they are still breeding remnants of the old improved breeds, which Dalmatian farmers value because of their length, fertility, rapid growth, and the excellent hams which they yield.

There are enough improved German hogs on private and state farms that some could be transferred to the SRZ and collective-farm herds and thus saved. Because of the high fertility of this hog, such action would not be too expensive, nor would it take a long period of time.

In general, the number of hogs in Dalmatia is sufficient; considering the amount of fodder available, there are perhaps too many. Individual farmers are making efforts to raise hogs, using all possible sources of feed and even bringing in feed from other localities.

#### Poultry

Poultry raising has not reached the prewar peak, and has suffered greatly from epidemics. On the state farms, duck raising has increased. Additional incubator stations have been installed and more hens are being raised. Cooperative farms as such do not engage in poultry raising, this branch of activity being left for the cooperative member's private garden area, where he keeps approximately the same amount of poultry as before the war. There is no indication that private farmers are significantly increasing their flocks.

Native chickens are found generally throughout Dalmatia, as well as crosses of improved breeds.

-- E N D--

- 5 -

CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL**